

Message Text

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17

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15

STR-04 CEA-01 L-03 H-02 PA-01 PRS-01 DOTE-00 AGR-05

/093 W

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R 200600Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 92

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USLO PEKING

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAR ES SALAAM 5177

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EWWT, ELTN, TZ, ZA

SUBJECT: ZAMBIA'S TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS

REF: LUSAKA 1755 AND DAR 4071 (NOTAL)

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. ZAMBIAN MINISTERS FOR CONTINGENCY PLANNING AND FOR
TRANSPORT, POWER AND WORKS HAVE BEEN VISITING DAR ES
SALAAM IN PAST WEEK IN EFFORT EXPEDITE LARGE BACKLOG ZAMBIA-
BOUND GOODS. AFTER INSPECTING STORAGE AREAS, MINISTERS
APPEALED FOR MORE TRUCKS FROM ZAMBIAN TRANSPORT FIRMS
("LACK OF TRANSPORT WAS SICKENING"); CALLED FOR MORE DETER-
MINATION BY PORT AUTHORITIES AND ZAM-TAN ROAD COMPANY;
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NOTED THAT ZAMBIA FACING SHORTAGES OF SUCH GOODS AS SOAP;

AND ASKED EAC FOR REDUCTION IN PORT SURCHARGE AND HANDLING COSTS.

2. AT PRESENT THERE 58,000 TONS GENERAL CARGO AND 23,000 TONS COKE, FERTILIZER AND WHEAT AWAITING ONWARD TRANSPORT FROM DAR. IN ADDITION, TWO SHIPS CARRYING OVER 30,000 TONS WHEAT AND GENERAL CARGO EXPECTED THIS WEEK. ON NOVEMBER 18 ZAMBIAN MINISTER FOR CONTINGENCY PLANNING MET WITH REPS OF ROAD, RAIL, AND CLEARING AGENTS TO WORK OUT EMERGENCY ARRANGEMENTS TO CLEAR THE PORT STORAGE AREA.

END UNCLASSIFIED; BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

3. ON NOVEMBER 19 ZAMBIAN COMMERCIAL ATTACHE, MAZABA, TOLD ECONOFF THAT ZAMBIAN OFFICIALS VERY UPSET OVER TRANSPORT BOTTLENECK IN DAR, PARTICULARLY THE PORT STORAGE AREA CONGESTION WHICH NOW IMPEDING OFFLOADING OF SHIPS. (KNOWLEDGEABLE US SHIPPING AGENT ON VISIT HERE DESCRIBED PORT SITUATION AS DETERIORATING RAPIDLY. ONLY 600 TONS A DAY BEING OFFLOADED DUE CONGESTED WORK AREA, INEFFICIENCY, AND UNDERUTILIZATION OF EQUIPMENT. HE SAID, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT 89 PERCENT OF FORK LIFTS AND OTHER HANDLING EQUIPMENT CURRENTLY OUT OF ORDER.) MAZABA SAID THAT OVER PAST MONTH 100 MORE TRUCKS WERE ADDED TO TANZANIAN ROUTE AND THAT CURRENTLY 40,000 TONS A MONTH BEING TRANSPORTED FROM DAR TO ZAMBIA WITH 35,000 TONS OF COPPER GOING OUT THROUGH DAR. PROBLEM IS SCARCITY OF TRUCKS. ZAMBIAN VEHICLES DIVIDED AMONG NACALA, BEIRA AND DAR ROUTES. THERE HAS BEEN NO PROGRESS ON RESOLVING TANZANIA-KENYA ROAD DISPUTE AND IT IS UNECONOMICAL TO HAUL FROM MOMBASA WITH 18 TON LOADS.

4. ASKED ABOUT RECENTLY INAUGURATED CHINESE-BUILT TAN-ZAM RAILWAY (TAZARA), MAZABA SAID IT NOT MUCH HELP IN PRESENT CRISIS. ONLY ONE TRAIN A DAY RUNNING TO ZAMBIA AND EACH TRAIN LIMITED TO AVERAGE TOTAL CARGO OF ONLY 500 TONS. IT WILL BE SOME MONTHS BEFORE RAILBED SETTLED PROPERLY TO ALLOW INCREASED TRAFFIC. MAZABA SAID TAZARA EXPERIENCING SOME SETTling PROBLEMS IN LOWLANDS BETWEEN MAKAMBAKO AND CHIMALA IN TANZANIA. (THIS IS SAME STRETCH WHICH REPORTEDLY HALTED TAZARA TRIAL OPERATIONS IN LATE AUGUST.) MAZABA SAID ZAMBIA IS PAYING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ESTABLISHED COMMERCIAL TAZARA RATES.
LEVIN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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